

Testimony of Dawn Dubay

Middletown School Readiness

February 21, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to send a written testimony to you today. My name is Dawn Dubay and I'm the School Readiness Liaison for Middletown Schools. I represent the childcare providers in Middletown receiving School Readiness funds from the Office of Early Childhood.

The proposed cut in Care4Kids would be devastating to our programs, families, and our state as a whole. Our programs have many families, especially infants and toddlers, who rely on Care4 Kids to assist them paying for the high cost of childcare and to be able to work. Please continue to find other options to fund this important program which inevitably affects everyone.

We urge the committee to strongly take into consideration the positive impact that all of the programs potentially being eliminated to our youngest children in Connecticut. There is increasingly more research showing the rapid brain development that occurs between ages 0-5 and this is the time children need early intervention the most. The more money we expend into this age group, the greater the financial benefit is in the long term for our state, as well as the well-being of our children and families.

Please continue to support and fund our Community Plans for Early Childhood. These funds allow groups of people to come together and plan for ways to improve our children's achievement gap, strengthen early care and education programming in Middletown, and so much more.

Thank you for your time and energy making Connecticut the wonderful state that it is!

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Dubay, Middletown School Readiness Liaison

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